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RUEL and unusual" are the terms applied by an unfeeling Congressman to the new Columbian stamps. This may be too severe, but let us admit that they are uncalled for, especially in regard to the increased size. Our stamps were already too large. Whenever I see a new outburst of "official art" I wonder why it is that we should be satisfied with second-rate designs for coins, bank-notes, stamps and government buildings, when the best is none too good in every other respect. The official art system begins wrong almost everywhere outside of France. In England, with a genius like Walter Crane in their very midst, the Jubilee coinage was so ugly that it was pronounced

"not only an artistic but a commercial disgrace." These things have to be designed. Why should they not be done well? Why should they be weak and shabby in one respect more than in another? Such work should be thrown open to competition, and the design chosen, not by a government official, nor even by a President or a Queen, but by a qualified art commission.

Sunday at the Fair

IT is with deep regret I learn that the Fair will probably be closed on Sundays. Ignorance of the conditions has certainly led many influential people to bitterly fight Sunday opening. No one who has seen the orderly and intensely interested crowds who now go to Jackson Park Sunday afternoons would think for an instant of shutting off all this splendid beauty on the day when most can enjoy it.

*Messrs. Steele
and Forsyth*

I AM glad to record the honor which Mr. T. C. Steele and Mr. W. Forsyth received at the hands of the World's Fair jury. Only ninety pictures were chosen out of nine hundred, but Mr. Forsyth passed three and Mr. Steele two, and "a landscape by Mr. Steele was the only picture that received a number one vote." J. M. B.

W. FORSYTH
"Steamer Landing—
Public Gardens,
Venice."
From a pen and
ink sketch

